

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-20 and 41-58 are pending in the current application. Claims 2, 3 and 21-40 are canceled herein. Claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 12 and 13 are amended herein. Claims 41-58 have been added.

The Office Action indicates that claims 3-6, 10, 11 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten to include the subject matter of the claims from which they respectively depend.

In an effort to expedite issuance of claims directed to the subject matter of presently allowable claims, Applicants have: 1) amended the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 3 into independent claim 1, along with claim 2 from which claim 3 depends, and canceled claims 2 and 3; 2) corrected dependencies of dependent claims 4, 5 and 10 to now depend from amended claim 1 instead of now-canceled claim 3; 3) added new claim 41 that consists of the subject matter of original independent claim 1 in combination with the allowable subject matter of allowable dependent claim 15, along with original dependent claim 14 from which claim 15 depended; and 4) added new claims 42-58 that correspond, respectively, to original claims 2-13 and 16-20, all so that amended claim 1 and new claim 41, and claims 4-20 and 42-58 that depend therefrom, are now in condition for allowance. Applicants have also cancelled the remaining claims 21-40 from further consideration in this application so as to expedite issuance of amended claims 1, 4-20 and 41-58.

In taking the foregoing actions, Applicants respectfully submit they are not necessarily conceding in this application that these claims, as originally presented, are not patentable over the references cited by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as pertinent ones of the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter of the claims indicated by the USPTO. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims and/or other claims in one or more continuing applications.

In view of the motivation to expedite issuance of the method claims, if there are any outstanding unresolved issues that would delay the Examiner passing this application to

allowance after considering this Response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call the undersigned attorney to work to resolve these issues as expeditiously as possible.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicants regard as their invention. In particular, the USPTO notes that line 1 of each of these claims contains the phrase “said data signal,” but there is no antecedent basis for this element.

Applicants have amended each of claims 12 and 13 to recite “said image signal” in place of “said data signal.” Since “said image signal” finds antecedent basis in clause a) of claim 1, Applicants submit that claims 12 and 13 are no longer indefinite. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the present rejection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 13, 14 and 16-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,396,945 to Ishii.

Without necessarily conceding the propriety of this rejection and for the sake of expediting the patenting of the subject matter of the allowable claims as described above, Applicants have amended the claims so that claims 1, 2, 13, 14 and 16-20 contain only allowable subject matter and have canceled the remaining rejected claims 21-36. Therefore, the present rejection is moot, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Ishii/Shishido et al.

Claims 7-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the Ishii patent, mentioned above, and U.S. Patent No. 6,865,288 to Shishido et al.

Without necessarily conceding the propriety of this rejection and for the sake of expediting the patenting of the subject matter of the allowable claims as described above, Applicants have amended the claims so that claims 7-11 contain only allowable subject matter.

Therefore, the present rejection is moot, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Ishii/Gilat-Bernshtein et al.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the Ishii patent, mentioned above, and U.S. Patent No. 7,218,771 to Gilat-Bernshtein et al.

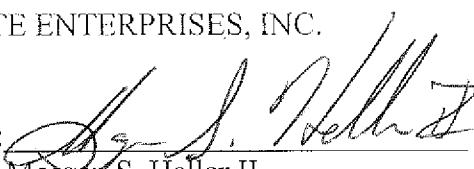
Without necessarily conceding the propriety of this rejection and for the sake of expediting the patenting of the subject matter of the allowable claims as described above, Applicants have amended the claims so that claim 12 contains only allowable subject matter. Therefore, the present rejection is moot, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1, 4-20 and 41-58, as amended, are in condition for allowance. If any issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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